through proper channels. Sanction should therefore be accorded early to have an elected non-official President for the Municipality.

Lastly, the member requested that a First Class Magistrate's Court be established at Attingal. The First Class Magistrate at Trivandrum had a very heavy file, as the taluks of Chirayinkil, Neyyattinkara and Trivandrum were under his jurisdiction. It would be even sufficient if the Tahsildar of the Chirayankil taluk be invested with the powers of a First Class Magistrate. This would not affect the Government financially.

DEWAN'S REPLY: Mr. Sekhara Variar, Government have ordered the question of the establishment of a *satram* at Attingal to be dropped for the present.

The Council's resolution for putting up additional street lights in the town of Attingal is under the consideration of Government.

The provision of a recreation ground is under correspondence.

The question of allowing the Attingal Municipal Council to elect its own President is receiving the attention of Government at the moment.

I have already answered more than one representation about the establishment of a First Class Magistrate's Court in the Chirayinkil taluk. That matter has been decided; the Government agree with the District Magistrate that there is no necessity for it.

88. Needs of the Quilon taluk.

Mr. N. VISVANATHA PILLAI (*Quilon taluk, Group I*) said that most of the subjects included in the agenda had been represented by him over and over again in the previous sessions of the Assembly. He did not therefore want to waste the time of the Assembly by reading out all the subjects again but only wanted to allude to a few items which required the immediate attention of the Government.

The first and foremost matter that should engage the attention of the Government was the dire situation caused in the country by the economic depression. The fall in prices of commodities coupled with the decrease in production had adversely affected the agriculturists of the country. In order to afford them some relief, the Government should consider the feasibility of remitting a portion of the land tax and income tax or at least of increasing the number of instalments for the payment of the same. The benefits of the system of agricultural loans should be made available to *bona fide* agriculturists and the loans should be equitably distributed to all the taluks.

Another matter which the member wanted to bring to the notice of the Government was about the excise policy at Paravur. Temperance was the accepted policy of the Government and they had recognised as sound, a policy of gradual prohibition. A committee which enquired into the question had suggested the desirability of prohibiting the use of arrack and foreign liquors for a period of 20 years. Mr. M. E. Watts, while he was Dewan, had accepted the principle of local

LIBRARY ARCHIVES Kerala Legislative Assembly

option and introduced it within the municipal limits of Changanachery, as an experimental measure. The Excise Department itself existed for the promotion of temperance in the State. But when the people of Paravur, by common consent, wished to introduce prohibition in their midst, the Government officers tried to repress their attempts by force which occasioned high-handedness on the part of the local Police. The member assured the Government on behalf of the people of Paravur that the majority of the people of the place were for absolute prohibition and he therefore requested that they should be given a chance to effect the reform.

The people were under the impression that with the constitution of the Road Boards a definite programme of work would be got ready for the Public Works Department to act upon. But it was regrettable to find the Government declaring that the recommendations of the Road Boards were too numerous to be carried out. So, the position was that the deliberations and recommendations of the Road Boards shared the same fate as the representations in the Assembly. It was desirable in the circumstances to abolish the Road Boards altogether and to introduce Village Panchayats in all the *pakuthies* of the State, or at least in all the *pakuthies* of the Quilon taluk, so that the needs of the villages might be attended to by these Panchayats. The Village Panchayat Regulation was passed in 1100 and the rules thereunder were framed in 1105. But even then the Government were only considering the question of introducing the Panchayats as a tentative and experimental measure in certain places. While in British India and in some of the Indian States, including the sister State of Cochin, the Panchayats had been in existence for a long time and working satisfactorily, it was strange that the Travancore Government were still hesitating to launch out a scheme of rural reconstruction. There would not be any need for wasting the time of the Government and of the Assembly with representations about small roads and lanes, primary schools, grant-in-aid *vaidyasalas* and the like provided the Government were prepared to introduce Village Panchayats in all the villages and to contribute liberally towards the village fund. It was desirable to appoint a trained Registrar or to depute some officer for training and to introduce Panchayats in all the *pakuthies* of the State to satisfy the growing needs of the villagers.

Lastly, the system of education obtaining in the State should be overhauled. The wide spread unemployment among the educated classes had opened the eyes of the people to the inutility of mere literary education. The Government had been promising the appointment of a committee for the purpose of considering the reform of the educational system. But the people had begun to lose faith in enquiries through committees. It was a common belief among the public that the Government wasted money on these committees simply to allay public feeling and gain time. An honest and serious attempt should be made to overhaul the existing system of education and thereby check the growth of unemployment in the State.

LIBRARY ARCHIVES Kerala Legislative Assembly

DEWAN'S REPLY: Your long list, Mr. Visvanatha Pillai, will be considered and each item looked into. But I am afraid you will have to put up with at least one more committee. As I have already said, an Education Reforms Committee will be constituted shortly to deal with the question of educational reform.

Several concessions have already been granted to relieve hardship. And, the recommendations of the Economic Depression Enquiry Committee are being carried out or will be carried out.

As regards local option, I have only to repeat what I have said before, namely, that Government are watching the experiments at Changanachery.

Your other suggestions will be considered.

89. Needs of the Quilon taluk.

MR. R. RAMAN PILLAI (*Quilon taluk, Group II*) first spoke about the need for the immediate construction of the 3rd section of the Quilon-Mukhattala road with a bridge at Ayattil and of the 2nd section of the road from the 2nd furlong, 6th mile, of the Quilon-Shencotta road to Pooyapalli. The necessity for the first road had been repeatedly pressed at several past sessions of the Assembly, but only the first two sections of the road had been completed so far. In regard to the second road, it was stated at the 23rd session that the first section of the road had been completed and that an estimate for the second section was then under consideration. It was regrettable that though four years had since elapsed nothing was done in the matter. The road was an important one and its construction should be expedited.

The Anchalummood—Peruman road and the Anchalummood—Prakulam road should be improved at an early date. The work on these roads would not cost much, but the roads, if improved and made fit for cart traffic, would be of immense use to the public.

The necessity for opening a road from Eravipuram to Mayyanad was repeatedly urged on the attention of the Government and provision was also made for the work in the budget, but the amount was allowed to lapse. The road should be opened without delay.

The construction of culverts and sluices in the Kuntuman *chira* was an important irrigation work so far as the Quilon taluk was concerned and would benefit more than two thousand *paras* of paddy fields. There was some provision for this work in the previous year's budget, but this amount also was allowed to lapse. The work should be carried out without any further delay.

There was not a single medical institution in East Kallada, not even a grant-in-aid *vaidyasala*. There were qualified *vaidyans* available in the place. A grant-in-aid *vaidyasala* at least should be established at the place.

A Government dispensary should be opened at Anchalummood. The Inspecting Medical Officer who once inspected the place was convinced of the necessity of opening a dispensary at the place.

LIBRARY ARCHIVES Kerala Legislative Assembly